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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,813	08/21/2003	Akihisa Matsuno	M619 0001	6171

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EXAMINER

MOHANDESI, JILA M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3728

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/644,813

Applicant(s)

MATSUNO, AKIHISA

Examiner

Jila M. Mohandesi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 July 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17, 18, 25-27, 32-34 and 38 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 35-37 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 12-16, 19, 23-24 and 28-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-11 and 20-22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims 17-18, 25-27, 32-34 and 38 drawn to an invention nonelected without traverse in Paper filed on July 06, 2005. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 23-24 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Presnick (5,417,323) in view of Ku (6,644,482). Presnick '323 discloses a container for housing optical discs, the container comprising: a base (12); a lid (11) coupled to the base by a pivot joint for releasably housing an optical disc between the base and the lid, the pivot joint permitting pivotal motion of the lid relative to the base about a pivot axis that is substantially orthogonal to a plane of the disc housed between the base and the lid; wherein the base comprises a generally flattened base portion disposed to protect a first planar surface of the disc housed between the base and the lid and the lid comprises a generally flattened lid portion disposed to protect a second, opposing planar surface of the optical disc housed between the base and the lid. Presnick '323 does not appear to teach a hook for removably coupling the

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container to an apparatus with a rod. Ku '482 discloses the use of a hook that can be coupled to the container for hanging the container to an optical disk holding apparatus. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a hook to the container of Presnick '323 as taught by Ku '482 for hanging the container to an optical disk holding apparatus.

With respect to claim 3, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the hook formed on a perimeter of both the base and the lid for better hanging of the container.

With respect to claims 23 and 24 and the latch mechanism, see column 2, lines 38-39 of Presnick '323.

With respect to claims 28 and 29 and the shape of the base and lid, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the shape of the base and lid since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the shape of a component. A change in shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

With respect to claims 30 and 31 and a retainer, see column 1, lines 32-49 of Presnick '323.

4. Claims 12-16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the above references as applied to claims 1-2 above, and further in view of Paloheimo (5,848,688). Presnick '323 as modified above discloses all the limitations of the claims except for the specifics of the pivot joint. Paloheimo '688 discloses a pivot

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joint define at least a portion of an inwardly extending channel which leads towards the pivot joint and terminates in a bore located within the pivot joint. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the pivot joint of Presnick '323 with a channel and bore as taught by Paloheimo '688 for a tighter pivot joint connection.

With respect to the shape of the channel, bore, finger and the container base and lid, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify these shapes since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the shape of a component. A change in shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 35-37 are allowed.
6. Claims 4-11 and 20-22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16, 19-24, 28-31 and 35-37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

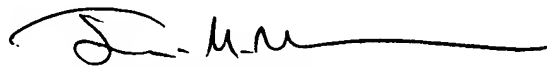
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jila M. Mohandesi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4558. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-4:00 (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**JILA M. MOHANDESI
PRIMARY EXAMINER**


Jila M Mohandesi
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728

JMM
September 06, 2005